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New Forest Planning Rules Come to Western Montana

By Adam Rissien

In January 2004, the Forest Service began revising its forest plans for the Bitterroot, Lolo and Flathead National Forests. It is mandated by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) to update its land-use plan at least every fifteen years.

Part of the planning process includes gathering public input through a series of collaborative meetings. Many people spent numerous hours participating in order to ensure our views were adequately represented. In short, these meetings were supposed to help guide the agency in developing its forest plan by integrating public opinion into the final decision. At the end of the collaborative process, people from all sides were happy that their views were heard and even more, that the meetings were over. Now, the Forest Service is starting from scratch thanks to the Bush Administration and all our efforts seem to have been wasted.

To help guide the agency in implementing the NFMA a set of regulations were developed and had been in

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Join us at the Gates of the Mountain!

By Katie Craig

Sierra Club's Lewis and Clark Day at Gates of the Mountains commemorates the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial with a Natural History Legacy

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson sent Captains



Participants in the 2004 Gates of the Mountains event. Photo by Heidi Godwin

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on an epic journey that would change the course of American history. For more than two years, Lewis and Clark and their "Corps of Discovery" traveled 8,000 miles, mapping forests, prairies, and rivers. Their scientific descriptions and meticulous journals-which described 178 trees and plants and 122 animals, all new to Western science,-launched America's

exploration of the Western frontier.

Using Lewis and Clark's journals as a historical gauge, we can plainly see the contrast between what our country looked like 200 years ago and what it looks like today. We can accurately measure what we have lost, what remains, and, most importantly, the places we can still save.

This summer marks the 200th anniversary of the famed explorers, westward journey through Montana. To commemorate the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, Sierra Club is working to create a natural history legacy by

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Rocky Mountain Front Travel Plan Draft Ready for Comment!!

By Jennifer Ferenstein

The Forest Service is developing a Travel Plan for one of North America's most stunning landscapes, Montana's Rocky Mountain Front.

The Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front urges you to attend one of the upcoming public meetings, read and review the draft alternative Travel Plan, and contact the Forest Service in support of Alternative 3, which balances opportunities for hunting and packing; quiet recreation; protects

private land from illegal trespass; and checks the spread of noxious weeds.

In 2003, because of overwhelming public response, the Lewis and Clark National Forest dumped a proposed Travel Plan for the Front and started over. Now the Forest Service has released the draft Travel Plans for the Rocky Mountain Front. The draft has five alternatives and the eventual final plan will guide forest travel and many uses for the next 15 years.

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If you would like to make a contribution to help offset the costs of sustainable paper, make your check out to Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club and write "newsletter paper" in the memo line of your check. 🌲*

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Please include phone #.

The Montana Sierran welcomes letters to the editor. Editor reserves the right to print letters based on space. All letters are subject to editing for length, clarity, usage, taste and libel.

Submissions must include first and last name with city/town (and state, if the letter is not from Montana.).

The Montana Sierran encourages submissions of articles and photos for upcoming issues.

The Montana Sierran reserves the right to edit or reject submissions at its discretion.

For more information or to submit something, email the editor at editor@montana.sierraclub.org

**Fall issue
deadline:
September 5, 2005**



CHAPTER ELECTIONS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND PETITIONS

Members wishing to recommend candidates for four at-large positions on the Montana Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) for two year (2006-2007) terms, may send the names of the candidates with a statement of the candidates willingness to serve to the Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 231, Missoula, MT 59806 by October 5, 2005. Members wishing to submit issue petitions must also submit those to the Nominating Committee by October 5.

The Nominating Committee will report its nominations to the ExCom by October 10, 2005.

Members wishing to nominate candidates by petition for at-large positions on the ExCom need to submit the petitions to the Nominating Committee at the above address, with signatures from at least 15 Chapter members by October 24, 2005.

Ballots will be printed and mailed by the Election Committee on November 14, or soon thereafter and must be returned to the Election Committee within four weeks after being mailed.

The list of eligible Chapter members for voting in this election will be based on the October 1, 2005 Chapter membership list. 🌲

(Rocky Mountain Front Travel Plan —continued from page 1)

The Forest Service did not specify a preferred alternative and is asking the public for input during the next sixty days (**Deadline August 16**). Now it's up to us to help the Forest Service choose the best solution. Therefore, it's important that as many folks as possible attend an open house - they start right away - to participate in the democratic process, share your thoughts with agency staff and fellow Montanans and then formally comment to the Forest Service. *PLEASE submit written comments at the open house or send your comments to the Forest Service.*

What You Can Do:

Attend one of the public meetings being held by the Forest Service.

Locations:

—East Glacier Community Center / Library Monday, **June 27, 7-9 p.m.**

—Heart Butte Senior Citizen Center Tuesday, **June 28, 1-3 p.m.**

—Cut Bank Glacier Electric Building, 410 East Main Street Tuesday, **June 28, 7-9 p.m.**

—Augusta Senior Citizen Bldg. Wednesday, **June 29, 7-9 p.m.**

Send a letter to the Forest Service with your comments for the draft travel plans.

Written, personalized comments are by far the best. So we need you to write a letter today. Here are some important points you might want to raise in your comments:

--The final travel plan should uphold the long tradition of horse and foot travel along the Rocky Mountain Front.

--Alternative Three is the best solution for the most Montanans. It balances opportunities for hunting and packing; quiet recreation; protects private land from illegal trespass; and checks the spread of

noxious weeds.

--A common-sense travel plan must balance recreational uses. While it can include some off-road vehicle activity, it must also protect the land, wildlife, private property and quiet recreation opportunities for all Americans.

--Montanans are strongly on record about a Front Travel Plan. In 2002 and 2003 the Forest Service conducted a public "scoping period" on a possible Travel Plan. In response, Montanans overwhelmingly urged the Lewis and Clark National Forest to adopt a plan that favors traditional use, such as walking, hiking, and horseback riding. An analysis showed that over 7,600 comments were received, the largest public response ever received by the Lewis and Clark National Forest, and more than 98 percent of Montanans urged the Forest Service to develop a new conservation-based plan while less than 2 percent of the respondents supported ORV use on the Rocky Mountain Front.

--The Front provides critical winter range for big game and a wide variety of wildlife.

Comments are due by August 16, 2005

To contact the Forest Service:

Written comments to:

Spike Thompson,

Forest Supervisor

Lewis and Clark National Forest,
PO Box 869

Great Falls, MT 59403-0869

Email: comments-northern-lewisclark@fs.fed.us

Please indicate "RMRD Travel Plan DEIS" in the subject line

Write a letter or copy your comments to Montana's Congressional delegation:

It is important that you also send a copy of your comments to Montana's

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PROTECT THE GALLATIN FOREST - GET INVOLVED! *By Jim Kraus*

If you enjoy quiet recreation in the Gallatin National Forest, it's time to act now. Your help is needed to ensure that public trails and areas be set aside and protected for quiet recreation - areas where you can hike, cross-country ski, snowshoe, horseback ride, hunt, fish, and seek other quiet pursuits. You can get involved in the travel planning process to make sure that future generations get to enjoy these opportunities as well.

The motorized community wants a plan that would open much of the forest outside of Wilderness Areas to motorized use. They have made it clear that they want no restrictions on the forest. We know that unregulated motorized traffic damages the forest, dirties streams, spreads noxious weeds, and impacts negatively on game and other wildlife. Given the growth potential of Gallatin and surrounding counties, there is reason to believe that motorized use will continue to grow at an alarming rate. Unless motorized use in the forest is regulated, the forest and all that it contains will be irrevocably damaged. And once gone, it will be gone forever.

Make sure your voice is heard and protect your right to a quiet, peaceful experience. Because our forest is public land, motorized recreation will and should be allowed in the forest, but it must be contained and regulated. Allowing motorized use in every area will hasten the destruction of the forest and all that it contains.

Of the six alternatives that the Travel Plan explores, the Forest Service (FS) prefers alternative #7. This is not a bad alternative, but

your comments are needed to improve it and to correct certain critical deficiencies. This is where your comments are necessary to insure a travel plan that meets your needs and desires but most importantly protects the forest for future generations

Your comments should address the trails that you know and use. You should let the FS know how you use them and how you want them managed. Use first-hand experiences and comment on as many trails and areas that you know. Tell the FS what you want.

Additionally, tell the FS that they should:

—Close and rehabilitate all user created trails. These trails are illegal and their continued use should not be honored.

—Not allow motorized traffic in the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area (WSA). In their preferred alternative (#7) the FS will allow motorcycles on the Gallatin Crest (which is the only natural corridor between Yellowstone Park and the Bridgers) and other trails in the WSA. Snowmobiles are allowed to cross the WSA in a corridor linking Paradise Valley and Hwy 191 at the southern end of the WSA in critical habitat for many species including grizzly bear. Approximately 15 miles of the Big Sky snowmobile trail are in the WSA.

—Keep Cottonwood, Trespass Creek and Rock Creek in the Crazies open to quiet recreation only. The FS has recommended that motorized use be allowed on these trails.

—Not allow motorized traffic on Truman Gulch, Corbley Gulch, Foot-hills and Middle Cottonwood trails in the Bridgers due to damage al-

ready inflicted and the popularity of these trails with hikers.

—Restore quiet recreation to the Cabin Creek Wildlife Management Area.

This area has some of the best wildlife habitat on the Forest, yet snowmobile and motorcycle use are to be allowed in much of it.

—Not allow motorized traffic on the Hyalite Lake and Emerald Lake Trails. It is not compatible with the current volume of hikers, bikers and horseback riders. User conflict is a serious threat. End snowmobiling season on the Gallatin Forest on April 1 rather than the proposed June 1 cut-off date. Snow is generally gone by April 1. Snowmobile use in marginally snow covered areas will damage the forest.

The Forest Service wants, and deserves, to hear positive comments as well:

Let them know you support their proposal to ban snowmobiles from Hyalite Canyon. Also tell them that you support the plan to plow (no salt, no sand) Hyalite Canyon Road to the reservoir. This will finally provide a close-in area for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and sledding.

Applaud the FS recommendation to not allow use of trails unless specifically designated for a specific recreation. This will ensure that users have no doubt as to the appropriate use for a specific trail.

Support their plan to recommend the Lionhead Travel Management Area as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Insist that no motorized traffic be allowed.

Comment on the travel plan to the Forest Service by mail to:

Gallatin National Forest,
ATTN: Marna Daley, PO Box 130,
Bozeman, MT 59771

OR by email:

comments-northern-gallatin@fs.fed.us
["Travel Planning" in the subject line].

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(Rocky Mountain Front Travel Plan Continued from page 3)

two Senators since Congress will ultimately need to take action to protect the Front, it is important that you also contact Montana's delegation. At the very least send a copy of your comments to Montana's Senators and Representative (see article, page 6 for contact information).

For more information:
See the Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front's web page: www.savethefront.org.
The Forest Service web has the complete draft alternatives:



Fairy Orchids. Photo by Vicki Watson

www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark.
Local libraries along the Front have hard copies of the draft alternatives.

The Rocky Mountain Front: Background Information

Stretching for over 100 miles, from Glacier National Park to near

Helena, Montana's Rocky Mountain Front is a place of unparalleled natural beauty. From atop the massive limestone cliffs that jut skyward 3,000 feet one can gaze out onto a Great Plains virtually unchanged since the days of Lewis and Clark. With the exception of wild bison, the full complement of native wildlife still inhabits the Front. This long north-south strip of wildlife habitat is so rich that Montana's Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department consider the Front to be in the top 1% of wildlife habitat in the U.S. The Front harbors one of the country's largest bighorn sheep herds and second largest elk herd. It also contains one of the largest populations of grizzlies south of Canada, including the only place where grizzly bears still roam on the Great Plains. This productive ecosystem also includes 700 plant species, representing one-third of Montana's flora.

Montanans have long supported and taken action to protect the Front, from the 1913 creation of the state's first game preserve (Sun River Game Preserve) to the 1972 creation of the nation's first citizen initiated Wilderness Area (Scapegoat Wilderness). More recently, an impressive collection of elected officials and local leaders have adamantly spoken out against allowing drilling here, including Senator Baucus (D-MT), the Lewis and Clark County Commissioners (this county covers the southern half of the Front), the mayor of Great Falls, the former Lewis and Clark National Forest Supervisor, and the former Montana BLM State Director. Polls, public comment opportunities, and newspaper editorials all show that the vast majority of Montanans want to see the Front protected from any natural gas drilling.

In 2003, the Forest Service conducted a public scoping period on a possible Travel Plan. In response, Montanans and Americans nationwide overwhelmingly urged the Lewis and Clark National Forest to adopt a plan that favors traditional use, such as walking, hiking, and horseback riding.

An analysis done by the Coalition showed that over 7,600 comments were received, the largest public response ever received by the Lewis and Clark National Forest, and more than 90 % of Montanans urged the Forest Service to develop a new conservation-based plan while less than 2 % of the respondents supported ORV use on the Rocky Mountain Front.

Last year, the federal government halted proposals to drill a portion of public lands along the Front after 99 % of the 49,000 Montanans and other Americans overwhelmingly urged the government to protect the Front and stop the drilling proposal. The Coalition and other Montana leaders now are urging Congress to permanently protect the Front while fairly compensating leaseholders by offering a buy-out or swap for existing leases to put the issue to rest once and for all.

The impacts of the proposed travel plan will be significant to the Front's wildlife, recreation, protecting private lands from illegal trespass, and checking the spread of noxious weeds. 🌿

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(Gates of the Mountains Event—continued from page 1)

permanently protecting four special places in Montana:-the Great Burn, Lewis and Clark Pass, the Pryor Mountains, and an addition to the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness. These places look much the same today as they did when Lewis and Clark passed through Montana 200 years ago but without permanent protection there is no guarantee that they will stay this way.

On July 10 you will have a chance to see one of these spectacular places up-close and personal and find out what you can do to help make our plans for permanent protection a reality.

Make plans to join us for an informative and entertaining evening. This family-friendly event will kick off at 4:30 and will include a tasty bison burger barbecue, a presentation by famed Lewis and Clark historian and conservationist Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs, an appearance by Captain William Clark, and a boat tour through the Gates of the Mountains.

The cost for the event is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 5-12. **Reservations are required for this event**, which sold out last year.

To reserve a spot please fill out the form below and send it along with a check (made out to *Gates of the Mountains*) for the total amount to:

Katie Craig, Sierra Club
PO Box 1290
Bozeman, MT 59771

When we receive your check, you will receive a confirmation letter along with more information and directions.

Views and memories from the 2004 Gates of the Mountain Lewis and Clark Commemorative event. Photos by Heidi Godwin



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Write Letters to the Editor:
Bozeman Daily Chronicle
(300 word limit)
PO Box 1190
Bozeman, MT 59771
citydesk@dailychronicle.com

Billings Gazette
(250 word limit)
PO Box 36300
Billings, MT 59107
speakup@billingsgazette.com

Livingston Enterprise
(250 Word Limit)
PO Box 2000
Livingston, MT 59047
enterprise@livent.net

Keep Montana's Congressional delegation in the loop by providing them with copies of your comments to the Forest Service:

Senator Max Baucus
32 E. Babcock, suite 114
Bozeman, MT 59715
Email: max@baucus.senate.gov

Senator Conrad Burns
211 Haggerty Lane, Suite A & B
Bozeman, MT 59715
Tel: 406-586-4450
Fax: 406-586-7647
Bozeman, MT 59715
Email via website:
www.burns.senate.gov

Rep. Denny Rehberg
950 N. Montana Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
Email: denny.rehberg@mail.house.gov

If you need further guidance or assistance contact Jim Kraus at krausjwk@aol.com., 📧

Name of Person Making the Reservation: _____
Number of Adults ___ Number of Children 5-12 years old ___
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone number _____
Email _____

A Wild Wolf Weekend!

**By: Benjamin Donatelle,
Headwaters Outings
Coordinator**

April 2 and 3 2005, ten years after gray wolves (*canis lupis*) were reintroduced into the Yellowstone Ecosystem, saw the coming of another wild pack, the Sierra Club Headwaters Group. The group of 12; including four club activists, one staff member and a wolf specialist from the Yellowstone Association Institute, descended upon the valley for an active weekend of viewing and appreciating these majestic creatures.

Norm Bishop, the group's seasoned interpreter, set the tone for the weekend with a slideshow introducing the wolf reintroduction and recovery program and highlighting major wolf related events of the last 10 to 15 years. The slideshow was very informative and left the participants with a sense of wonder for the future of the wolves. The weekend continued with an evening trip into Lamar Valley, which boasts the highest concentration of wolves in North America, where despite the good odds, wolves were not to be found. The group did however have encounters with various other wildlife including coyotes, a red fox, elk, bison and a flock of sandhill cranes whooping in the shallows of Slough Creek. The group observed the setting sun from a small knoll near Slough Creek commonly referred to as Dave's Hill. As the sun retreated beyond the western hillsides a high-pitched chorus of yelps rose up from below the group's perch and a small pack of coyotes beckoned an eerie good night to all within earshot.

Sunday morning, after a fine dinner and good night's sleep, the group

enthusiastically arose at 5:30 a.m. to race the impending sunrise back into the valley. The group narrowly edged out the rising sun and perched themselves back on top of Dave's Hill to await the coming of the day and whatever else it brought with it. Within a half-hour one of the participants called out from behind the mirrored lenses of her binoculars, "I got wolves!!!" and the entire group focused on the described location. Sure enough, one, two, three...seven, eight, nine...thirteen!!! Thirteen wolves of the Slough Creek Pack, the second largest and most bold pack in the park, were meandering the river valley in search of food, play and the warmth of the morning sun. As they moved up the valley they paused for a moment to surround a bull bison. One of the more adventurous wolves taunted the seemingly annoyed beast with playful head bobs and a couple of friendly nips. The bison put up with his pests for only a few moments before he chased them off with a snort and a couple of hoof beats to the dusty ground. The wolves soon lost interest in this formidable meal and moseyed down the valley in search of bigger and better things.

The group moseyed with them, stopping at two more points, where the wolves were observed playing with each other, harassing a small herd of elk and basking in the glow of the mid-morning sun. As the group left the valley for the day, most everyone commented on how the experience opened their eyes to the majesty and elegance of these misunderstood creatures. Many who came had never seen wolves in the wild before, but all who left shared the experience and the feeling of being forever connected to this wild place. 🐾

Bitterroot-Mission Group Summer Outings 2005

Kent Peak/Sapphire Mountains

Saturday, July 9

Join Sierra Club and Friends of the Bitterroot for a day hike to Kent Peak (8998') in the Sapphire Range east of the Bitterroot Valley. This hike is within the Sapphire Wilderness Study Area and a prominent feature of the string of wildlands which stretch along the wild Sapphire Crest, from the Welcome Creek Wilderness south to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness. It offers incredible views of the Bitterroot Range, the Rock Creek wildlands and the Anaconda Pintlars. Along the way, hikers will document recreation use on trail #313.

This loop hike will be moderately strenuous with about 2,000 feet of elevation gain over about 10 miles. Kent Peak summit is optional, with some off-trail hiking.

Trip leader: Larry Campbell

Carlton Ridge Research Nat. Area

Sunday, July 10

Join the Bitterroot-Mission Group and explore the long, forested ridge northeast of Lolo Peak in the heart of the 16,000 acre Lolo Creek Roadless Area. The 920 acre Carlton Ridge Research Natural Area (RNA) was set aside by the Lolo National Forest in order to protect the unique and scientifically valuable forest communities that are found there. Natural stands of western larch and alpine larch occur, including a rare stand of natural western and alpine larch hybrids that have been studied by scientists, revealing an interesting dispersion of characteristics of the two parent species.

Hikers will be joined by Drs. Stephen Arno and Clint Carlson, both retired research foresters who will discuss the history, attributes and scientific values of the Carlton Ridge RNA.

Hikers should expect an 8 mile round-trip including significant off-trail hiking, to reach an absolutely unique site where natural hybrids are found. Be prepared for a rigorous hike down steep hillsides through brush and downfall. *Contact Sierra Club's Missoula office for more information.*

(Continued on page 11)

Club Volunteers head to North Idaho

By Joel Webster

The ridgetop trails of Montana and Idaho remain nearly unchanged from the days when the Nez Perce and Lewis & Clark traveled across these wild places 200 years ago. Yet, as wild as they are, many of these areas remain unprotected to this day. The Lewis & Clark Trail, also known as the Nez Perce Trail, represents a very special yet unprotected place that stretches across the Montana-Idaho divide above Lolo Creek and the Lochsa River. Some portions of the Lewis & Clark Trail are even held in checkerboard ownership as

a result of the public land giveaways to railroad companies that occurred during the time of westward expansion. While these areas are undeveloped by modern standards, they still remain threatened by development. Together, we can work to preserve this precious place.

This summer, there are outdoor opportunities for club members to work with the public to promote the Sierra Club's proposed Lewis & Clark Trail Wilderness Area Campaign in North Idaho on the Clearwater National Forest. Volunteers from the Sierra

Club will spend two extended weekends interacting with travelers along the Lewis & Clark trail at the Lolo Pass Visitors Center near U.S. Highway 12 on the Montana-Idaho boarder. The Sierra Club has also been working with the Forest Service to set up interpretive signage at the DeVoto Grove of Ancient Cedars along Highway 12 (DeVoto edited the Lewis & Clark journals). This outreach work will be a great opportunity to camp outdoors and interact with



tourists about the importance of this unprotected landscape that Lewis & Clark once roamed. The dates are as follows: June 30 through July 4 and Sept. 1 through the 5. Please come, camp, and meet with the public

for one or more of these great summer days.

If you're interested in helping out for this fun experience, contact Joel Webster at webster_joel@yahoo.com or by phone at 829-3850. Small scholarships are available to help volunteers with travel expenses.



(FOREST PLANNING Continued from page 1)

use since 1982. These rules set standards and guidelines to meet the mandates of the Act, including procedures to ensure the diversity of plant and animal species. This requirement had long been met by implementation of a population viability analysis. In addition, standards were set for indicator species and old growth retention. Actually, the list of requirements was quite extensive and proved to be a thorn in the side of industrial logging interests. This is partly why the Bush Administration decided to get rid of all

those pesky rules.

This past January 2005, a new set of regulations was released changing the way NFMA had been implemented for the last 23 years. Instead of providing concrete standards, the new rule states that agencies only need to describe desired conditions, and set objectives with non-binding guidelines. In other words, there shall be no more absolutes in the forest plans; no more old growth standards, no more viability analysis, no more anything that can stand in the way of getting what industry wants. One saving grace is that site-specific projects still require environmental

review, but no longer will they violate forest plans. If the project goes against the plan's desired condition, well, they can just go ahead and change that little detail. Keep in mind the new rule was written by Mark Rey, a former timber-industry lobbyist and the Darth Vader of the Forest Service.

Part of the new rule requires an elaborate system of collaboration and notification. On its face this may seem like a good thing, but in reality this is localism taken to its extreme. Before the new rule, the Forest Service had initiated a tri-forest planning process. So a person attending a meeting

could comment on how management ought to be set for three entire forests. At the very least, individuals could recommend direction for a specific forest, like the Lolo while attending a meeting in the Ninemile. Now it appears that comments are being sought not forest by forest, but district by district.

In order to comment on how the Bitterroot NF's Sula District ought to be managed one will have to attend their meeting, regardless of whether or not you can make it. Of course, one can still submit written comments, but more emphasis will be given to those who actu-

(Continued on page 11)

Sierra Club Lewis and Clark Outings 2005

Gates of the Mountains Boat Tour Sunday, July 10 (see p. 1)

Sierra Clubs Lewis and Clark Day at Gates of the Mountains, Helena, July 10. This year's event will be similar to last years with special guest speakers, a tasty bison burger barbecue and boat tour through the Gates of the Mountains. We will present our proposed plan for a Lewis and Clark Wilderness bill, which includes a Wilderness addition in this special area. This family friendly Sierra Club sponsored event sold out last year and attracted over 100 participants. \$15 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5 - 12. To RSVP please contact our Bozeman office at 406-582-8365

Alice Creek/Lewis and Clark Pass Tuesday, July 19

Join Sierra Club for a mushroom hike along Alice Creek with local Mushroom expert Larry Evans. This area adjoins the Scapegoat Wilderness along the Continental Divide at the head of the Blackfoot River. Capt. Lewis's party traveled through this pass on their eastward journey in 1806. Home to grizzly bears, elk, and golden eagles, the area offers old growth forests along a pristine creek and an array of wildflowers on the open slopes of the Divide.

Trip Leader: TBA

Missouri Headwaters evening full moon float trip—Thursday, July 21

Join the Headwaters Group for a peaceful evening exploration of the Headwaters of the Missouri River July 21, the night off the full moon. We will float the winding lower Madison River from I-90 to Missouri Headwaters State Park and meet there for an evening picnic. We will discuss Holcim Corp's plans to burn tires at its cement plant in Trident, less than a mile down river from the park, and may drive down to Trident to visit the site.

The Headwaters off the Missouri were a major landmark for the Lewis and Clark expedition which they

reached in July of 1805. It is still an amazing place, with an abundance of wildlife which is best seen from a boat in the evening. The water quality of the Missouri River and the air quality of the Gallatin Valley are threatened by Holcim's tire-burning proposal.

Canoe, canoeing gear and basic paddling skills are required for this trip.

Trip Leader: Phil Knight



Great Burn Backpack Trip - Friday through Sunday, July 29 - 31

When on September 15, 1805, Capt. Meriwether Lewis exclaimed, "From this mountain I could observe high rugged mountains in every direction as far as I could see" he was gazing upon what is now known as the Great Burn Roadless Area.

Backpack along the Montana/Idaho border in the wildest reaches of the northern Bitterroot Mountains. Spectacular scenery, wildlife, and natural history abound in this 250,000 acre inter-state roadless area. Our route will parallel the explorer's route across the rugged Bitterroot Mountains in 1805 and 1806. This 15-mile trip will be moderately strenuous with some off-trail travel required.

An informative and entertaining visit from a time-traveling Pvt. Joseph Whitehouse will kick-off the trip.

Space is limited.

Trip Leader: Bob Clark

Pryor Mountains, a place of awe and wonder - Saturday, July 30

Joint outing with the Montana Native Plant Society!

History of the Pryor Mountains as related to Lewis and Clark and early days of fur trapping. Plant communities from the Bighorn Basin desert to the subalpine meadows.

Depart at 8:00 a.m. from Rocky Mountain College parking lot at 1500 Rimrock Rd. next to Billings Studio Theater and at 9:10 a.m. in Bridger across from Post Office. Plan to stay in the Pryors until dark. Bring water and lunch, plus a snack for dinner.

Be prepared for gravel roads with stretches of unmentioned very rough roads. Four-wheel drive not necessary, but high clearance is certainly desired. We will stop at points of interest for discussion and will take short hikes to look a various plant communities.

Nothing strenuous

Trip Leader: Clayton McCracken

Gates of the Mountains Backpacking - August 27— 28, 2005

On July 19, 1805, the Lewis and Clark Expedition pushed their way up the strong current of the Missouri River and entered an awe-inspiring canyon with limestone walls 1,200 feet high. Lewis remarked these "are the most remarkable cliffs that we have yet seen."

Join us for a fun filled weekend of hiking and camping along the Missouri River in the famed Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Area. Boat ride down the mighty Missouri River then hop off at Meriwether campground and camp along the quiet shores of the Missouri and hike among the limestone spires that make up the canyon for two days and one night. Spectacular vistas await as we explore this 28,000-acre Wilderness Area by boat and foot. More information is available by contacting outing leader Ben Donatelle at 582.8365, x 3011. There will be a \$10 fee for the boat ride portion of the trip. The outing is open to the public on a

(Continued on page 10)

(Lewis and Clark Outings—Continued from page 9)

first come first served basis so sign up soon. Space is limited.

Trip Leader: Ben Donatelle

Lewis and Clark Pass Sunday September 18

Remembering and recording is a universal human activity. When Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to survey the country west of the Mississippi, he instructed them to record everything they saw. Throughout the Corps' more than 4,000-mile journey, Captains Lewis and Clark recorded 178 plants and 122 animals not previously known to science. Today those journals provide a historic record for today's explorers, including the ecologists, geologists, and botanists who search for clues of change and stability within our current environment.

Please join the Sierra Club for an outings workshop on field journaling and nature writing at Lewis and Clark Pass - the route Lewis used to re-cross the Continental Divide back to the Great Falls. Identify many of the same species Lewis might have observed. Learn different techniques for field observation, and develop an eye for the individual detail that creates good nature writing and record keeping. The trip will be intermediate and cover approximately 10 miles. Call 543-0702 for trip details.

Trip Leader: Margot Higgins

Carlton Lake, Lolo Peak summit - Saturday, September 10

On September 9 and 10, 1805 the Lewis and Clark expedition camped in the shadow of Lolo Peak at Travelers Rest camp. As we celebrate the 200-year anniversary of the Corps of Discovery, Lolo Peak and the surrounding wild country is under eminent threat from development of North America's largest destination ski resort. At risk is more than 10,000 acres of roadless wildlands, including crucial winter range for elk, a popular backcountry recreation area, and historic viewshed for the Missoula and Bitterroot Val-

leys. Hikers will climb over Carlton Ridge to Carlton Lake on a good trail then head up the rocky east ridge of Lolo Peak to its summit at 9,096' for a birds-eye view of the awesome landscape at stake.

Participants can expect a surprise visit from a time-traveling Capt. William Clark!

Trip Leader: Bob Clark

Nathaniel Pryor Commemorative Outing - Saturday, September 17 (tentative)

Hikers will visit sites near Billings that tell the story of Nathaniel Pryor setting out with the horses on July 23 1806. Pryor's mission was crucial to the expedition, a fact that is often overlooked.

Mike Penfold, retired BLM Director and Howard Boggess, member of the Crow Tribe and a tribal historian are tentatively scheduled to guide us on this outing and will tell stories about the Toluca to Cody railroad and discuss routes that fur trappers used to go from the Yellowstone Valley to the streams north of the Pryors. The Bozeman Trail also followed these routes near present day Edgar.

The hiking will consist of a few short hikes of a couple of miles so folks can get an idea of the terrain.

Leader: Clayton McCracken,

To Sign up for Sierra Club outings or to receive more information contact our Missoula office at: 406-549-1142 📍



Look for Sierra Club's Lewis and Clark billboard this summer in Great Falls, Helena, and Missoula!

To Join Our New Email Alert Lists

We have email alert lists for the Montana Chapter and one for each of the groups in Montana. To join one or more of the lists, either visit our website (<http://montana.sierraclub.org/>), or send the following email message:

To: LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Subject: [this line is ignored and may be left blank]

Message: SUB MT-NEWS YourFirstName YourLastName

SUB MT-HEADWATERS-NEWS YourFirstName YourLastName

SUB MT-MISSION-NEWS YourFirstName YourLastName

SUB MT-MISSOURI-NEWS YourFirstName YourLastName

SUB MT-YELLOWSTONE-NEWS YourFirstName YourLastName

Replace "YourFirstName YourLastName" with your own first and last names on ALL LINES. The above example will sign you up for all the Montana lists.

Delete the lines that correspond to the lists that you do not want to join. If you need help subscribing to the lists, or you have any other questions, don't hesitate to contact Jeff at web@vdc.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FUN ADVENTURE ON LEWIS & CLARK PASS

Volunteers are needed this summer to do Sierra Club outreach at Lolo Pass visitors center - June 30 - July 4 AND Sept. 1 - 5.

As summer dawns upon the Northern Rockies, millions of Americans will be climbing into their automobiles and traveling around the West to see the wildest region of the contiguous United States. Sierra Club volunteers will be there to greet them at the top of Lolo Pass with cold lemonade and conservation information about the Lewis & Clark Trail.

Where: The Lolo Pass Visitors Center on the Montana-Idaho border near U.S. Highway 12.

When: June 30 - July 4 and Sept. 1 - 5.

What: This summer, there is a fun outdoor opportunity for club members to camp outdoors near the historic Lewis & Clark Trail and spend the days interacting with the traveling public to promote the Sierra Club's Lewis & Clark Wild America Campaign and its mission to preserve this special area for future generations. Come spend a day or more where Lewis & Clark once stood on the wild Montana-Idaho border.

Small scholarships are available to cover travel expenses. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Joel Webster at webster_joel@yahoo.com or (406) 829-3850. 🏠

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<http://montana.sierraclub.org>



Comments and Cocktails

Sponsored by the Headwaters Group

Open House Letter Writing Party for Sierra Club Members

Join us on Thursday, July 7 anytime between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. for a chance to find out more about the Gallatin Forest Travel Plan, socialize with fellow Sierra Club members and prepare comments for the Forest Service which will then be hand carried to them.

The event will take place at the Weaver Room in the Emerson, 111 So. Grand in Bozeman. Food and refreshments will be served. For more information contact Katie Craig at the Bozeman Sierra Club office at 582-8365 ext. 3002 or katie.craig@sierraclub.org.

(FOREST PLANNING from page 8) ally attend the meetings. These are National Forests that belong to all taxpayers, but under this new rule deference is given to those with the time and ability to attend district-specific meetings. If you think this is designed to keep people out of the process, you are absolutely right.

Unfortunately, this is the system now in place, and while repeating the process again may be discouraging, not doing so would ensure that opposing interests would dominate the meetings. The scheduled meetings are past at this point but it is important that you let the Forest Service know you would like more to be scheduled.

Call the official in charge and ask that these opportunities be provided. The tiny chart (above right) gives contact info and names of local Forest Service officers in charge of the meetings. More information can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/wmpz>. 🏠

LOCATION	CONTACT
Hamilton	Sue Heald, 363-7100
Stevensville	Dan Ritter, 777-5461
Darby	Chuck Oliver, 821-3913
Kalispell	Rob Carlin, 758-5200
Missoula	Maggie Pittman, 329-3948
Superior	Rob Harper, 822-3928
Plains	Randy Hojem, 826-3821
Ninemile	Garry Edsen, 626-5408

(OUTINGS Continued from page 7)

Stony Mountain/ North Sapphires

Saturday, August 6

Starting at Sawmill Saddle (elev. 6,600') on the Bitterroot/Rock Creek Divide the Easthouse National Recreation trail (#313) heads south into the 103,000 acre Stony Mountain Roadless Area. The route contours above Alder Creek winding 7 miles along the Sapphire crest until reaching Eagle Point at 8,005'. The hike will end at Gold Creek Trailhead.

This is a full day, 10 mile up and down hike on a ridge-top trail.

Trip Leader: TBA

To sign up for Sierra Club's free Local Outings contact our Missoula office at 406-549-1142 or bob.clark@sierraclub.org. 🏠

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Help us support a fact-packed newsletter by advertising in the *Montana Sierran*. We reach thousands of people in *every* part of the state who care about the outdoors and have diverse interests.

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Other information:

If ad is provided, ad must be in pdf format. If it is not provided, a 10% design fee will be added.
Color will add additional charges.
Ads are due one week before issue deadlines (listed on page 2).

Business Card: \$15
Classified ads: .75 per word, 15 word minimum
Full Page: \$200
1/2 page: \$125
1/4 page: \$55
1/8 page: \$30

Meetings Meetings Meetings

Montana Chapter Executive Committee upcoming meetings:

The Chapter ExCom set the following schedule for the remaining two 2005 ExCom business meetings and the first meeting of 2006:

June 24-26, Billings.

October 1-2, Missoula.

January 21, 2006, Helena.

If you would like to attend any of these meetings, please contact the Montana Chapter Executive Committee chair, Ron Mueller at 543-7265, rlmueller@initco.net, or any ExCom member listed on the second page of this newsletter.

Want to Stay Informed or contact the ExCom?

Visit our web site!

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Mailed by
The Yellowstone Basin Group of the Sierra Club
15 North 26th Street— Suite 203
Billings, MT 59101



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**The Montana Sierran
Sierra Club, Montana Chapter
Quarterly Newsletter**